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REMARKS

Claims 26 and 45 are first objected to for the reasons noted in the official action. The above requested claim amendments are believed to overcome all of the raised informalities concerning this case. If any further amendment to either the claims or the specification is believed necessary, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

Next, claims 26-29, 35-38, 42, 46 and 50 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Cogifer '245 (FR 27 08 245), cited by Applicant, in view of Gover '761 (United States Patent No. 1,103,761); claim 30 is rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Cogifer '245 (FR 27 08 245), Gover '761 and further in view of Jones et al.; claim 32 is rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Cogifer '245 (FR 27 08 245), Gover '761 and further in view of Ruder et al. '867 (United States Patent No. 5,067,867); claim 40 is rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Cogifer '245 (FR 27 08 245), Gover '761 and further in view of Koster et al. '178 (United States Patent No. 4,968,178); claim 43 is rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Cogifer '245 (FR 27 08 245), Gover '761 and further in view of Emmons '301 (United States Patent No. 1,731,301); claim 47 is rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Cogifer '245 (FR 27 08 245) and Gover '761; claim 48 is rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Cogifer '245 (FR 27 08 245), Gover '761 and further view of Reichel et al. '946 (United States Publication No. 2004/0182946); claims 49 is rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Cogifer '245 (FR 27 08 245), Gover '761 and further in view of applicant's own specification; claim 39 is rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Cogifer '245 (FR 27 08 245), Gover '761 and further in view of Gemmer '295 (United States Patent No. 916,295). The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses all of the above raised obviousness rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 41, 44 and 45 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim(s). In accordance with this indication, claims 41 and 45 are both appropriately revised, to be independent claims, and those two amended independent claims are now believed to be allowable in accordance with the Examiner's indication.

In addition, the essential allowable subject matter of claim 44 is incorporated into independent claim 26 and this amended independent claim is also now believed to be

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allowable. As claims 27-40, 42, 43 and 46-49 all depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 26, those dependent claims are believed to be allowable as well.

In view of the above claim amendments and the cancellation of claim 50, the Applicant respectfully submits that further comments concerning the applied prior art of Cogifer '245, Gover '761, Jones et al., Ruder et al. '867, Koster et al. '178, Emmons '301, Reichel et al. '946, Applicant's own specification, and Gemmer '295 is not believed necessary. The Applicant also notes the remaining prior art cited in the official action. As none of that additional art is applied by the Examiner against the claims of this application, the Applicant is not providing any comments concerning that art as well.

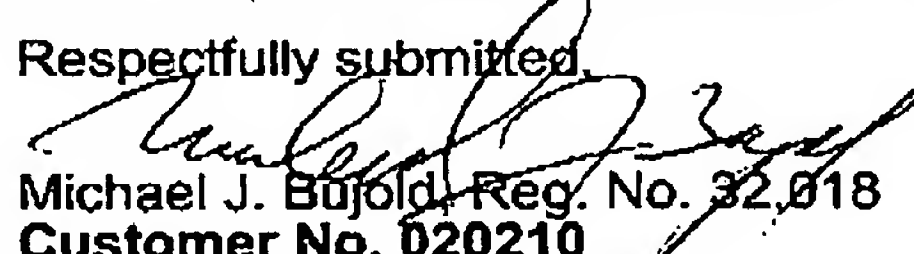
If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn and this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

The Applicant respectfully requests that any outstanding objection(s) or requirement(s), as to the form of this application, be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated for this case.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



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